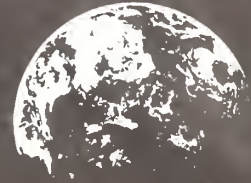


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Farm Broadcasters Letter



Letter No. 2267

June 19, 1986

**POLICY
CHANGES IN
USSR**

The Soviet Union recently announced policy and organizational changes aimed at improving farm productivity and reducing reliance on imports. Even a modest increase in Soviet grain production could trim the USSR's grain import needs substantially. If Soviet grain output reaches 220 million metric tons by 1990 and the per capita meat consumption remains at 65 kilograms a year, grain import needs could drop by nearly 65 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. However, imports could remain high even with better domestic output if the state decides to raise per capita meat consumption.

**USSR TRADE
TILT TO U.S.**

The U.S.-Soviet trade heavily favors the United States. This is due mainly to Soviet purchases of U.S. grain, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In 1985, the USSR was the second largest U.S. export market for grain. Although the Soviet is likely to remain a major purchaser of U.S. grain in 1986, its grain imports are expected to decline because of an estimated 20-million-ton increase in 1985 Soviet grain output.

**POLL
DEADLINE
EXTENDED**

The deadline for wheat producers to return their wheat poll ballots to their local county ASCS offices was extended from July 7 to July 14 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The wheat poll ballots will be mailed to wheat producers on June 25, one week later than announced earlier. Ballots will be canvassed at a public meeting in each county ASCS office on July 18. All valid ballots will be mailed to the ASCS Kansas City management office for tabulation. Results will be announced after Aug. 1.

**U.S. EXPORTS
DOWN 19 PCT.**

U.S. agricultural exports totaled \$17.3 billion in the first 7 months of fiscal year 1986, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Exports for Oct. 1985-Apr. 1986 dropped from year-earlier levels because foreign production increased and importers delayed purchases of grains in anticipation of lower prices. Export volume dropped 14½ million tons to 72.3 million, a 17 pct. decline from the same period in 1985. In the next several months, grain shipments are expected to benefit from reduced loan rates provided in the 1985 Food Security Act.

NAYLOR AT
FARM CREDIT

Frank W. Naylor, Jr. was sworn in as chairman of the Farm Credit Admin. Board on June 16. Naylor had served as Under Sec'y of Agriculture for Small Community and Rural Development, and for several weeks, as Acting Sec'y of Agriculture.

U.S. FARM
IMPORTS UP

U.S. farm imports in the first 7 months of fiscal 1986 advanced 4 pct. over the same 1985 period to \$12.3 billion. Most of the increase rose from larger inflows of noncompetitive products, particularly coffee. Sugar imports continued to decline, dropping \$196 million to \$396 million. This decline, stemming from lower import quotas and increased corn sweetener use is expected to reduce sugar imports further in 1986.

FmHA LOANS
DOUBLED

The Department of Agriculture's Farmers Home Admin. has made nearly twice the number of guaranteed operating loans this year as it had by this time last year. As of June 4, FmHA had guaranteed just over 11,000 operating loans totaling \$1 billion during fiscal 1986. At the same time in fiscal 1985, FmHA had made slightly less than 6,000 guaranteed loans amounting to \$675 million.

FEWER U.S.
FARM OPERATORS

The number of U.S. farm operators and unpaid family workers declined about 5½ pct. during the year ending in April 1986, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Farm family employment declined more than hired employment, as hired workers were substituted for family workers.

LOWER WHEAT
OUTPUT
FORECAST

Winter wheat production prospects were cut by a reduced acreage and less-than-favorable weather. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a much smaller harvest of winter wheat may bring total 1986 wheat output to about 2.2 billion bushels, compared with last season's 2.4 billion. The new crop plus the record carryover will still put 1986/87 wheat supplies at a record of just over 4 billion bushels. U.S. feed grain production is expected to fall about 15 pct. in 1986/87 to 235 million metric tons, while exports and domestic use together may rise 6 pct. to 217 million. However, feed grain ending stocks will probably rise to nearly four times what they were at the end of 1983/84.

DOUBLE-
CROPPING WHEAT
AND SOYBEANS

Farmers in the Southeastern U.S. now double-crop wheat with soybeans on nearly 30 pct. of their soybean acreage, up from less than 20 pct. in 1970, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Double-cropping is the practice of planting wheat after harvesting a soybean crop, then harvesting the wheat in the spring in time to plant a new soybean crop. The expansion of double-cropping has increased the Southeast's and the Nation's production of soft red winter wheat, a crop in surplus since 1970. By 1984, U.S. stockpiles of soft red winter wheat reached 80 million bushels compared to less than 20 million in 1970.

DOWNWARD
TREND TO
SLOW

The downward trend in farmland values will slow due to decreasing interest rates, lower production expenses, and higher payments from government programs, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Differences in regions will widen as the Northeast values increase while most of the nation experiences further losses.

FROM OUR
TELEVISION
SERVICE

CURRENT AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK...Reduced acreage and less-than-favorable weather have cut winter wheat production prospects. USDA economist Herb Moses talks about the current agricultural outlook. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (211)

SUGARS AND SWEETENERS UPDATE...The world pattern of sugar consumption has registered major shifts, while use increases. USDA economist David Harvey examines the current situation and outlook for sugar. Vic Powell interviews. (212)

AGRICULTURAL LAND VALUES...The lowering of farmland values that began in 1981 continues into 1986 with values likely to decline further this year, but probably less than last year's 12 percent. USDA economist Bill Heneberry analyzes factors contributing to this situation. Vic Poweell interviews. (213)

HIGH VALUE ADDED EXPORTS...USDA analyst Mike Dwyer talks about the growing market for high value-added exports and why these products have grown so greatly over the last twenty years. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (214)

SOLAR BOX COOKERS...Solar box cookers may offer some benefits for developing nations according to a recent study conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Dr. Fred Barrett with USDA's Office of International Cooperation and Development discusses this project. DeBoria Janifer interviews. (215)



FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1516...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) The National Commission on Agricultural Trade and Export Policy recently announced the results of its 18 month investigation of the U.S. farm export situation. The results were unveiled as part of a week long series of events in Washington. George Holmes presents an overview of the Commission's findings and recommendations.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1505...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Details on this year's grain reserve; Wheat referendum; Export commission unveils report; Southern corn leaf blight.

CONSUMER TIME #998...(Weekly reel of news features) Lots of dogwoods; Catching some rays; Amino acid supplements?; Buying fresh seafood; Goat awareness.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Mon, June 30, Agricultural price report; Tues, July 1, Crop and weather update; No prescheduled reports are due out until Tues, July 8, Crop and weather outlook; Fri, July 11, U.S. crop production, Soviet crop production, World ag. supply and demand. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

OFF MIKE

Cletus Paul retires as farm director at KBUR, Burlington, Iowa, at the end of the month. John Weir will become farm director, and Bob Shompers replaces John as farm editor. John reports they will honor Cletus at a special dinner July 16. He also reports that Cletus is doing well: that the neck brace is gone and his hip has mended. 'Tis good to hear ... Last week we reported that USDA Radio's Gary Crawford had received a Gold Screen Award from the National Association of Government Communicators. We were not complete in our report.

Dave Carter, who up to a year or so ago produced a monthly USDA television service, received not one but two Gold Screen Awards, one for an informational videotape on "ERS: Economic Research for American Agriculture" and the other for a TV news feature, "Citrus Canker Story." Our congratulations! ... We received an invitation to a birthday party...to the one year birthday of the Independent Florida Agrinet to be exact. It's for 9 p.m. on June 28th. Wish we could be there ... Taylor Brown (Northern Ag Net, Billings, Mont.) reports his co-worker Conrad Burns is throwing his hat in the political ring and running for county commissioner ... In an earlier newsletter we reported Davonna Oskarson was leaving the Martin Agency in Richmond, Virg. We now learn that, as of June 4, she is with Southern States Cooperative, Inc. in the advertising division. And she also reports, "In the meantime, I'm also planning my July 4 wedding to David E. Scott, a professional engineer in management with Virginia Power" ... Cliff Mitchell (KASM, Albany, Minn.) just returned from a 3,000 mile milk marketing research trip through central Canada. His interviews about the Canadian Milk Quota System were aired June 16-20 on his "Aunt Sara's Party Line" show ... Tom Steever (KS00, Sioux Falls, So. Dak.) dropped by the office this week to chat. He was in town for a NFU event. Tom said Art Sechrest (WJBC/Farm Radio Illinois, Bloomington, Ill.) attended, too, but we didn't get to see him.

Jim Johnson

JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief, Radio and Television Division

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